

## Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 /079 W

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R 271211Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3609

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

USEC BRUSSELS 166

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

MTN USMISSION GENEVA 235

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ECIN, XJ, XY

SUB: FIRST ECOWAS COUNCIL ENDS WITH PARTIAL AGREEMENT

REF: ACCRA 5381

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1. SUMMARY. FIRST ECOWAS MINISTERIAL ENDED EARLY HOURS JULY 23

WITH ADOPTION OF ONLY THREE OF PENDING FIVE PROTOCOLS. REMAINING TWO, ON RULES OF ORIGIN AND ON ASSESSMENT FOR REVENUE LOSS, REFERRED TO NEXT COUNCIL, WHICH IS TO PRECEDE A SUMMIT. TIME AND PLACE OF SUMMIT (AND BY IMPLICATION OTHER ONGOING MATTERS) LEFT TO "INTERIM SECRETARIAT" OF HEADS OF STATE OF TOGO AND NIGERIA. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE EXTENSION OF ECOWAS COUNCIL SESSION INTO EARLY HOURS JULY 23, COUNCIL WAS ABLE ONLY TO AGREE ON THREE PROTOCOLS: (A) RE-EXPORTATION, (B) FUND FOR COOPERATION, COMPENSATION AND DEVELOPMENT, AND (C) BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS. PROTOCOLS ON RULES OF ORIGIN AND ASSESSMENT FOR REVENUE LOSSES (AS RESULT OF OPERATION OF ECOWAS--SEVERAL MEMBERS, FOR EXAMPLE, RELY ON CUSTOMS DUTIES FOR MAJOR SOURCE OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE) STILL FAR FROM AGREED, AND MATTERS DEFERRED TO NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

3. ALSO DEFERRED ARE INTERRELATED ISSUES OF LOCATION OF ECOWAS HEADQUARTERS AND CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY GENERAL. IT SEEMS THAT THESE WILL BE DECIDED ONLY AT SUMMIT LEVEL.

4. NEXT COUNCIL IS TO PRECEDE SUMMIT. NEITHER DATE NOR LOCATION OF EITHER OF THESE MEETINGS DECIDED, BUT IT APPEARS WILL BE SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME. IN MEANTIME, BALL THROWN BACK TO "INTERIM SECRETARIAT" OF HEADS OF STATE OF NIGERIA AND TOGO.

5. COUNCIL MEETING APPARENTLY HANDLED WITHOUT FIREWORKS IN JOURNEYMAN WAY. THERE IS FEELING AMONG PARTICIPANTS THAT SOME DEFINITE PROGRESS WAS MADE, ALBEIT NOT AS MUCH AS OPTIMISTS HAD HOPED. FEEDBACK WE GET IS "IT IS BETTER TO PREPARE MATTERS THOROUGHLY THAN TO RUSH INTO SOMETHING WHICH WILL END UP LIKE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY."LINEHAN

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## Message Attributes

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